Volume 8, No. 5 • January 26, 2001

Nation

Don't Tread on Me

Ecuador's indigenous say "No mas!"

-LAST COPY-
Please do not remove

$2 Free in *Iyiyuuschii*

The Cree Construction and Development Company Ltd.

New

Employment Program for College and University Students !

Partnering Towards Management *PTM*

In cooperation with Creeco, CCDC has created the PTM program aimed at helping Cree youth to emerge as a new generation holding future managerial positions in the business world. If you are a college or university student, CCDC may hire you in a related field of your studies and in position related to the construction industry.

Nora has been participating to the PTM program since the beginning of this program. She is working part time while studying in accounting and full time during the summer vacation. She is training to learn every step of accounting department.

"I am learning a great deal, especially from a person who has so many years experience in this particular field (payroll)."

Nora (Science comptables)

If you would like more information on our PTM program, please call Steven Bearskin, President at

450-661-1102

2001: SPACE ODYSSEY OR JURASSIC MICHAUD?

So here we are in 2001 and we haven't established colonies on the moon. Science Fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke's image of a future world in which an advanced computer named Hal goes a little funny in the old logic circuits and embarks on a minor killing spree hasn't quite become actual, even though we sometimes feel that computers are running our lives. As I write this I am in fact sitting in front of a computer. My bank teller keeps urging me to do my banking online, even though I point out that if we all banked through computers we wouldn't need tellers anymore. The teller simply gave me a smile and a shrug as if to say *what can we do?*

Yes, the computer age does have its annoyances. I log in to check my email every morning and proceed to delete a series of bold advertisements that try to convince me that:

- I can make bucketloads of money by simply sitting at home and surfing the net.
- Groundbreaking diets can help me shed enough weight to play the part of Tinkerbell in the next remake of Peter Pan.
- If I'm feeling somewhat paranoid, I can run detailed security checks on anyone I know. Come to think of it, that pizza delivery guy did look a little suspicious last night.
- A free trip to the Bahamas is just waiting for me to claim it.
- All my debts will be magically wiped out.
- I can buy liquid viagra without a prescription.
- Once I've bought the viagra I can, so they tell me, date supermodels from around the world.
- Without even so much as opening a book, I can *earn* just about any kind of college diploma that you can imagine.

Tempting as these offers may sound, I am not quitting my day job, or packing my beachwear, or taking acting lessons, or trading in my wife for 19 year old Swedish exchange students named Elsa. As frustrating as all the garbage that comes my way via the technological sub-miracle that is the internet, I simply hit the delete button and all the waste is magically flushed away until the next time I sign on.

So what is it that I'm rambling on about? Well, I'm getting there. Though computers are increasingly becoming an inescapable aspect of modern society, they do not pose the threat to us that Hal did to the astronauts he was supposed to be helping in 2001: A Space Odyssey. Our computers are still fairly ignorant and are only capable of doing what we tell them to do. They are just tools. The threat is still us.

While we embark into the brave new world that is the 21st century, some PQ party hard-liners, like a certain M. Michaud seem determined to remain in a dark and primitive era that should have been deleted long ago. When he went public with his insidious and divisive remarks about Jews and ethnic communities standing in the way of a free and independent Quebec, Michaud reminded us all that, even though we have developed incredibly advanced technologies, the human mind can still lag far behind. Even though my bank teller is encouraging me to step forward into the seemingly inevitable world of cyber-space, dinosaurs like Michaud are still out there trying to encourage members of our society to slide back into a mode of thinking that was all the rage in Munich and Berlin when a little Austrian guy with a moustache was running the show. It is some consolation, however, that outgoing leader Lucien Bouchard took the time to condemn the attitudes expressed by Yves Michaud. I was no fan of Bouchard's separatist objectives, but I can't help but respect the man for standing up as a true democrat. I never thought I'd ever hear myself say this, but I think I might actually miss the guy.

byBrian Zelnicker

Contents

NEWS

5 -Phase II Surprise
-Boss surprised!

7 -CTA funds slashed
-briefs

FEATURE

10 Anger in Ecuador

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

23 By the Light of the Moon

19 Tammy Beauvais Native Fashion Designer

25 Classifieds

ON THE COVER

Ecuador

Photographer: Mary Ellen Davis

Cover Design: ANNETTE WABIE & MONA LAVIOLETTE

Rez notes

BY THE ONE AND ONLY

Bob and Jane do Valentine's Day

Bob's Version of events

He sent her flowers and the usual e-mail with exploding flowers and chocolate flavoured everything and she still refused to be his valentine.

Geeze, Bob thinks. God. What does it take to make this lady happy enough to go out with me on the most hallowed of all romantic days, St.Valentine's. Maybe she's gay and only responds to women. Perhaps she's allergic to chocolate and perceives my gifts as lethal face disfiguring weapons and ultimately life threatening. I even read the Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus book and learn that I've been doing all the right things except in the wrong order and on a different planet.

Flowers are supposed to represent something else (I can't remember). I think they represent petal or fetal positions and chocolate represents the satisfaction coming with consumption and seems to satisfy some kind of urge (I only know of two urges and one of them is sleep after the first urge is over).

So what's the problem with her? It's not like we don't know each other, hell we even *84#ed the other night. I took her out and went to a great shoot 'em-up and everything exploding everywhere type of movie, after going out to the best all you can eat for $9.99 (in the reserved smoking section no less) then off to the C.L.'s till closing time, geez. What more could a woman want? It seems like they want this kind of treatment everyday, who can afford to eat out and drink up like that. She must think I'm some kinda Donald Trump or Kevin Costner or one of those sexless guys. Next thing you know, she'll wanna get hitched then I'll really have to fork up.

Jane's Valentine's Day

Bob's such an as&*%$. I thought he was going to choke on his 30th chicken wing at the all you can eat for $9.99 (even though he paid for the meals I had to pay the taxes on it. He told me I was doing the right thing, helping out the government and the whole country and all that). He told me not to tip because he was going to carry everything from the buffet. I think he gave the manager and the cook a heart attack when we were done a few hours later. He even spit in my glass of wine and made the waiter taste it so the we wouldn't have to pay for the pitcher of wine. He doggybagged the deserts and fortune cookies and we ate them at that stupid movie instead of buying real treats.

I should never have told him to read that book. Now he thinks he knows all of a woman's inner thoughts and can understand them. Where's Mel Gibson when you need him. I said that chocolates would be fine, not a package of O'Henry bars from Zellers. I'm glad I didn't mention lingerie otherwise we would never be able to step out the bedroom door for the next week.

I'm kind of hoping he'll grow up someday and sell that muscle car of his and get something I'll be able to drive, but he always says looks are important. Who the hell cares anyway, you can't even see him zooming by at a hundred miles an hour and he never lets anyone inside, not even me on occasion, like last Halloween. And he's so jealous, but for some strange reason, I still want him to be my boyfriend, even if he's a little wacko. I should look that up, maybe he's from Pluto and there are no reasonable explanations for his behavior.

The Nation is published every two weeks
by **Beesum Communications**

editorial board
Ernest Webb, William Nicholls, Alex Roslin
director of operations
Catherine Bainbridge
iyiyuu ayimuun editor
Brian Webb
photography
Neil Diamond
graphic designer
Mona Laviolette
director of finances
Linda Ludwick
sales representive. Montreal
Aaron MacDevitt
sales representative - Val d'Or
Yvon Boisvert (819) 874-6977
layout & production
W. Nicholls, M. Laviolette, Annette Wabie
ad layout
Aaron MacDevitt
administrative assistant
Jennifer Westlake
THANKS TO:
Air Creebec,

PRINTED BY QUEBECOR

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED ©

PUBLICATION MAIL #0584584
ISSN #1206-2642

***THE NATION* IS A MEMBER OF:**
THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,
CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,
CANADIAN MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS ASSN,
QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN,
CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS' ASSN
LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:
5505 ST-LAURENT, #3018
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 1S6
PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE NATION PRODUCTION OFFICE
5678 PARC AVE.
P.O. BOX 48036
MONTREAL, CANADA H2V 4S8

EDITORIAL
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

THE NATION HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

E-MAIL ADDRESS:
beesum@beesum-communications.com
On the Web:
www.beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS: $45
ABROAD: INDIVIDUALS: $70 U.S.
ABROAD: INSTITUTIONS: $85 U.S.
PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

Nation

SURPRISE, DISMAY OVER GREAT WHALE PLAN

News of the talks to revive the Great Whale hydro-electric project is taking Crees by surprise.

Few Cree officials or community members had heard of the hush-hush discussions until contacted by *The Nation*.

Crees we spoke to opposed the proposed project and worried about the effects on Cree trappers, hunters and fishers.

"It's news to me," said Nemaska Chief George Wapachee. "I'm not aware of it."

"No, I never heard about that," said another chief who requested anonymity. "It's the first time I'm aware of it."

"It's news to us," said Thomas Coon, president of the Cree Trappers' Association. "We never heard about reviving that project."

The idea of a 100-percent Cree-owned hydro-project on the Great Whale River was first proposed two years ago.

The proposal was made to Cree Construction president Steven Bearskin by AMEC Inc., a large Toronto-based engineering firm owned by British conglomerate AMEC plc.

AMEC Inc. has already worked on other dams, including Laforge-2, China's controversial Three Gorges dam and Colombia's equally controversial Urra dam.

An AMEC official asked *The Nation* not to print a story about the proposal because he said an agreement could be signed with Crees inside a month or two.

The proposal was to divert the Great Whale at its headwater, Lac Bienville, through a canal into the La Grande dam complex.

by Alex Roslin

The chiefs and band councils of Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui have been secretively discussing the idea since last fall.

Under the proposal, Crees would be full owners once the debt is paid off.

This notion raised questions for the chief who requested anonymity.

"How long is that going to be? Three hundred years? We'll probably all be dead by the time it's paid off," he said.

Whapmagoostui resident Robbie Dick, coordinator and advisor to the Cree Regional Elders' Council, was one of the few people who had heard of the proposal. But he hasn't heard much.

"My personal position is I'm against hydro-projects – even if I'm alone," said Dick.

"It doesn't matter who owns it. I don't want to be part of it."

Dick said the project would make it difficult for community members to navigate on the river, would hurt the drinking water supply, and damage animal and fish habitats.

He said AMEC officials came to Whapmagoostui last September to discuss the idea at a community meeting. But the meeting was held during goose break and many community members were in the bush. "There were hardly any people at the meeting," he said.

The proposal was to be on the table at a community general meeting last week.

Thomas Coon agreed that trappers would have many concerns: "The Whapmagoostui trappers were very concerned about the (original Great Whale) project. I'm sure they are still very concerned."

Decision to sell surprises Servinor boss

Servinor boss Pierre Goyet was surprised and bewildered to hear the company would be sold.

At a December 12 meeting, the executive body of the Cree Regional Authority ordered CREECO. to sell Servinor, its money-losing food distributor.

The decision was unexpected for Pierre Goyet, who has been the company's director-general since June 1998.

Asked how he felt, Goyet replied, "How would you feel? I felt people were not informed about everything. It is a very unusual way to operate."

Goyet was reluctant to get into details, saying: "This is politicians speaking. We don't get involved in politics."

But he suggested the company isn't doing as badly as some think.

"We are reorganizing the company and we believe that in a few years the company should be making money," he said from Servinor's head office in Val d'Or.

The Cree-owned company has been plagued by complaints about poor service and had trouble convincing the two biggest Cree communities, Mistissini and Chisasibi, to use its services.

One Cree official has estimated Servinor has cost Crees about $30 million since CREECO. created the company in 1993.

But Goyet claimed things were improving. He said "80 percent" of Servinor's customers were expanding their business with the company. "We see light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Goyet acknowledged that business in the Cree communities isn't showing much sign of improvement.

"But there is a good reason for that," he said, without being more specific.

Servinor is projected to lose $1.6 million this year on revenues of $24 million. It's expected to keep losing money until at least 2003, according to Jack Blacksmith, who is president of both CREECO. and Servinor

-BY ALEX ROSLIN

ᐊᓂᐊᓂᐱᐣ ᐃᓄᒃ ᐅᓂᓯᒻ

The Cree Nation Youth Council of Waswanipi

And its 1st annual Cree Nation youth festival 2001-01-18
February 15,16,17,2001.

WE THE YOUTH OF WASWANIPI INVITE YOU TO THE

GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW YOUTH CENTER

SPECIAL EVENTS:

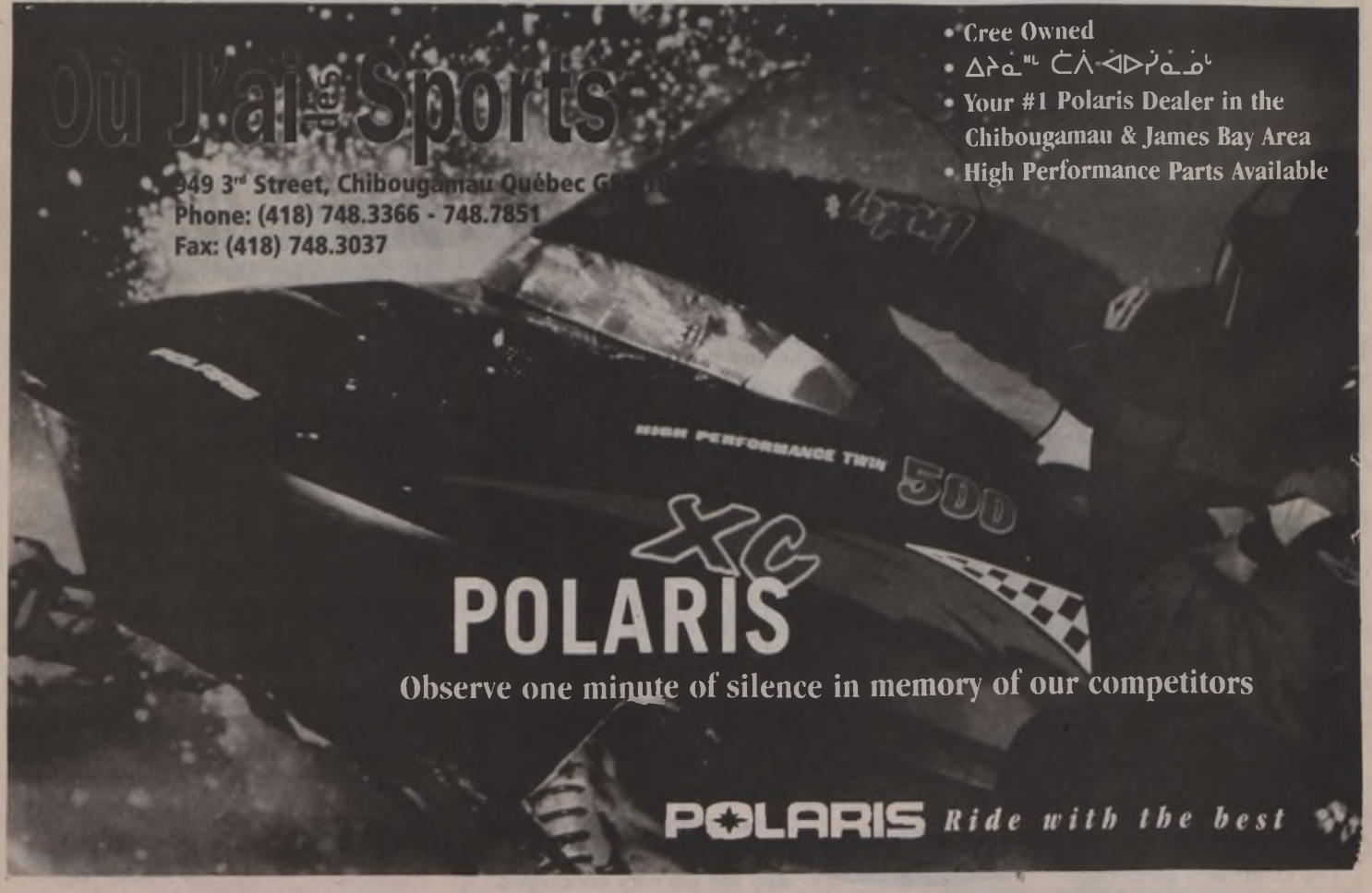
1. OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIES & SPECIAL INVITED GUESTS.
2. M.C MARIO DANCE PARTY - AND SPECIAL GUEST
3. YOUTH WINTER GAMES
4. YOUTH EXPOSITION OF & COLLECTIONS & ART WORK
5. FORMAL BANQUET & YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
6. YOUTH FASHION SHOW AND MR. & MISS WASWANIPI PAGEANT
7. YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE
8. AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

For more information call:

Marcel Happyjack - Youth Chief
819-753-2810 or 2804

Glen Cooper - Coordinator
819-753-2322 or 2405

Diane Cooper
819-753-2562


Où J'ai des Sports
949 3rd Street, Chibougamau Québec G
Phone: (418) 748.3366 - 748.7851
Fax: (418) 748.3037
• Cree Owned
• ᐃᓕᓴᕐᓂᐊᓕᒃ ᑕᐃᐧᐊᐅᓇᓂᒃ
• Your #1 Polaris Dealer in the Chibougamau & James Bay Area
• High Performance Parts Available
HIGH PERFORMANCE TWIN 500
XC
POLARIS
Observe one minute of silence in memory of our competitors
POLARIS Ride with the best

TRAPPERS TO FEEL EFFECTS OF SUBSIDY CUTS

Getting out to the trapline is going to be harder this year after transport subsidies to trapping and hunting families were slashed in half.

The subsidy cut was decided by the James Bay Eeyou Corporation last summer after falling revenues at the compensation funds it manages.

The trappers' subsidy wasn't the only thing affected. Bands will be getting about 25 percent less this year for community projects and economic development, said Sam Tapiatic, general manager of the corporation's Mitigating Works Sotrac 1986 Fund.

The $34.7-million mitigating works fund provides a yearly subsidy to the nine local Cree Trappers' Associations used to subsidize airlifts, transport and gasoline for trapping families.

The subsidy has fallen several times in recent years. Last year, the local CTAs got a total of $2.3 million, down from $2.7 million in 1999.

The cuts have some community members worried about getting out to their camps. In Waswanipi, the yearly subsidy was $250,000 in the mid-1990s. Last year, the local CTA got $125,000. This year, it's only $65,000.

Eastmain's subsidy dropped from $90,000 last year to only $45,000. Residents there are worried the spring helicopter airlift will be canceled or drastically reduced.

"The spring airlift is in jeopardy. It will be reduced in spring 2001," confirmed one CTA official.

In some communities, CTA officials are hoping the subsidy cut will be offset by a contribution from the band.

But other CTA officials fear that many bands are facing their own financial problems. Tapiatic noted that the bands are also seeing less money from the Eeyou Corporation this year. "Everybody's having a hard time," he said.

Tapiatic dispelled a rumour that the subsidies were cut because of $900,000 in funds that are going to assist trappers affected by forestry. "It didn't have any effect on our revenues," he said.

Tapiatic explained that the forestry-related payments were taken out of the capital of the mitigating-works fund, not the annual revenues.

The Cree Regional Authority has promised the money will be paid back when a forestry deal is signed with Quebec.

A CTA official in Eastmain also dispelled another rumour that the spring airlift is being cut back because of an alleged theft at the regional CTA office in Eastmain.

The CTA official said the alleged theft was "very unfortunate," but it affected only the regional CTA office, not the local CTA which subsidizes the airlift.

The theft was allegedly committed by an employee who no longer works for the CTA and has since left the community, said the CTA official. The organization lost at least $19,500 and possibly as much as $25,000, he said.

Police were not called in because there was no hope of recovering the funds and the CTA would have had to spend up to $8,000 more in legal fees fighting the case.

by Alex Roslin

Mistissini chief resigns

In a surprise move, Mistissini Chief Kenny Loon resigned from his position on Jan. 18, citing family reasons and dissatisfaction from some community members.

He made the announcement on the community radio station last Thursday afternoon, just before we went to press. He spoke for 15 minutes. The decision took the community and band council by surprise.

We'll have a full report next issue.

Northbound drugs seized, two busted

Over 1,000 grams of marijuana and hash oil were seized from two men stopped Jan. 13 at Montreal's Dorval Airport, say Kativik police.

The men were at the airport to catch a flight to Inukjuak, where they work, said chief of police Brian Jones, of the Kativik Regional Police Force in Kuujjuak.

Seized were 942 grams of marijuana and 129 grams of hash oil.

The arrest followed a tip to the Sûreté du Québec that "some people might be traveling with some stuff," said Jones.

RCMP Cpl. Normand Leblanc, in charge of the team that seized the drugs, confirmed, "We did have an indication that there was a possibility of some drugs that were going to be brought up north on that day."

Leblanc said a police dog was turned loose on baggage headed north. It spotted three suspicious items of luggage.

The RCMP made the arrests with collaboration from Kativik police and the SQ.

The identity of the men was not given out as they had not been charged yet.

Light streaks across Western sky

A fireball lit up the skies of western South Dakota and Nebraska and of eastern Colorado late the night of Jan. 11, but authorities have not determined what it was, reported Associated Press and the Rapid City Journal.

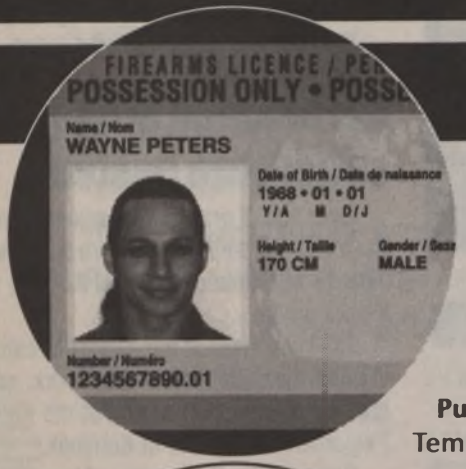
Some speculated that it was the Russian space station Mir, but this was disputed.

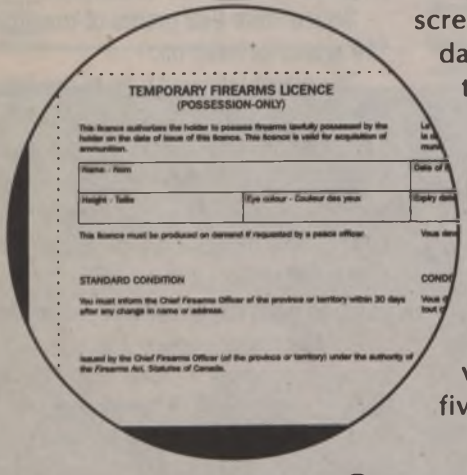
Motorists traveling Interstate 80 about 9:30 p.m. first reported seeing a blue flash

continued on page 9

Important Information
for all Canadians about responsible firearm ownership

An update on licensing





Temporary licences issued to meet demand

To comply with the *Firearms Act* requirement for firearm owners to have a licence as of January 1, 2001, Canadians sent in their licence applications in record numbers. To meet this demand, temporary licences are being issued to eligible firearm owners.

Public safety remains the cornerstone of the firearms program. Temporary licences are only being issued to those who are successfully screened against Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) databases. And, like all other firearm licence holders, those with temporary firearms licences will be continuously screened against police databases.

These public safety checks conform to the *Firearms Act* and keep firearms away from those who should not have them.

Temporary licence holders are not permitted to acquire firearms. However, they will be in legal possession of their firearms and they will be able to get ammunition. Temporary licences are only valid until June 30, 2001 or until those eligible receive their five-year licence.

Grace period introduced

Firearm owners who applied for their licence before the deadline will not be penalized if they did not receive their licence by January 1, 2001.

This grace period will last until June 30, 2001. It only protects people who applied for a licence before January 1, 2001. Firearm owners and users who did not apply for a licence or who don't have a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) may be subject to penalties under the *Criminal Code*.

For more information, assistance or forms, call **1 800 731-4000** or visit our Web site at **www.cfc.gc.ca**

Canada

Briefs...

continued from page 7

of light drop to the horizon.

Similar reports were made at several points in Nebraska's Black Hills and in the Denver area.

Reports varied as to the colour of the fireball. Three eyewitnesses said they saw a bright-green fireball falling to the horizon in the southern sky. Others said the light was "whitish-blue."

One man reported seeing a fireball the size of a pickup truck falling in the sky.

"It was a flash the size of the moon, possibly smaller," said another witness. "It was moving rapidly toward the horizon. It was not a plane or a fire. It was very brilliant green in colour."

Another witness said he "saw a really bright light... It was the biggest one I ever saw. As it went south toward the ground, it had a large glow like an explosion."

A Nebraska motorist said the ball of light appeared to drop near an airport: "That's how close it seemed, but it could have been far off."

Police said there was no evidence of a meteorite in the area.

A helicopter emergency medical technician also saw it: "It was just a big bright burst of light, then it just burned itself out."

Indian humour belies the Stoic stereotype

The following piece by Mark Trahant, a Shoshone-Bannock writer from Fort Hall, Idaho, is reprinted from the Native_News listserv (ishgooda@voyager.net).

Flip through any 19th-century collection of American Indian portraits and you'll see many images of stereotypical Native Americans: the serious expression of Sitting Bull; a warrior whose eyes avoid the camera, chin tilted forward in a gesture of nobility; children wearing the military uniforms of a government boarding school.

The stereotypes depicted in the images linger because they are so deeply embedded into our national story, the one about the stoic Indian and a conquered people.

What baffles me is how such a stereotype can persist when it's so completely wrong.

I have a hard time even imagining American Indians as stoics — humourless, resigned, reverent — no matter the tribe involved. Ancient legends are filled with humour. Whether it's about a coyote, spider or a raven, there are hundreds of stories with jokes hidden in the morality tale.

I grew up in a reservation community where humour was a constant. As I began to travel and experience places and cultures far from my own, I heard that same laughter echoed wherever I went.

I began to wonder how the non-Indian world came to believe the story of the wooden Indian.

Native writers and storytellers have chipped away at that wooden image for a long time. Creek poet and journalist Alexander Posey wrote the hard-hitting satire, the "Fus Fixico Letters," about corruption in what was then the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

He poked fun at political characters, such as Teddy Roosevelt — he called him President Rooster Feather — and Secretary of the Interior Ethan Allen Hitchcock. Posey renamed the secretary "It's Cocked," because he hated making difficult decisions.

These days, Northwest poet and author Sherman Alexie loads his writing with outrageous wit and humour — not to mention comedic genius on stage.

A new PBS documentary reveals one secret of Indian humour. Seattle filmmakers Sandi and Yasu Osawa profile comedian Charlie Hill.

Hill is Oneida, Mohawk and Cree, and grew up on a reservation near Green Bay, Wisconsin.

"An Indian comedian?" Hill recalls being asked. "Isn't that an oxymoron?" Fighting words — or a stereotype that opens a source of inspiration.

Sometimes it's a short quip: "Take my land. Please!" Other times, Hill tells a story, such as one involving a conversation with his father on a mountaintop.

"See all that land, son?"

"Yeah, Dad."

"Do you realize that one day none of this will be yours?"

What I particularly like about this film is that it shows the continuity of Indian humour, from Will Rogers to just about anybody on Hill's tribal council.

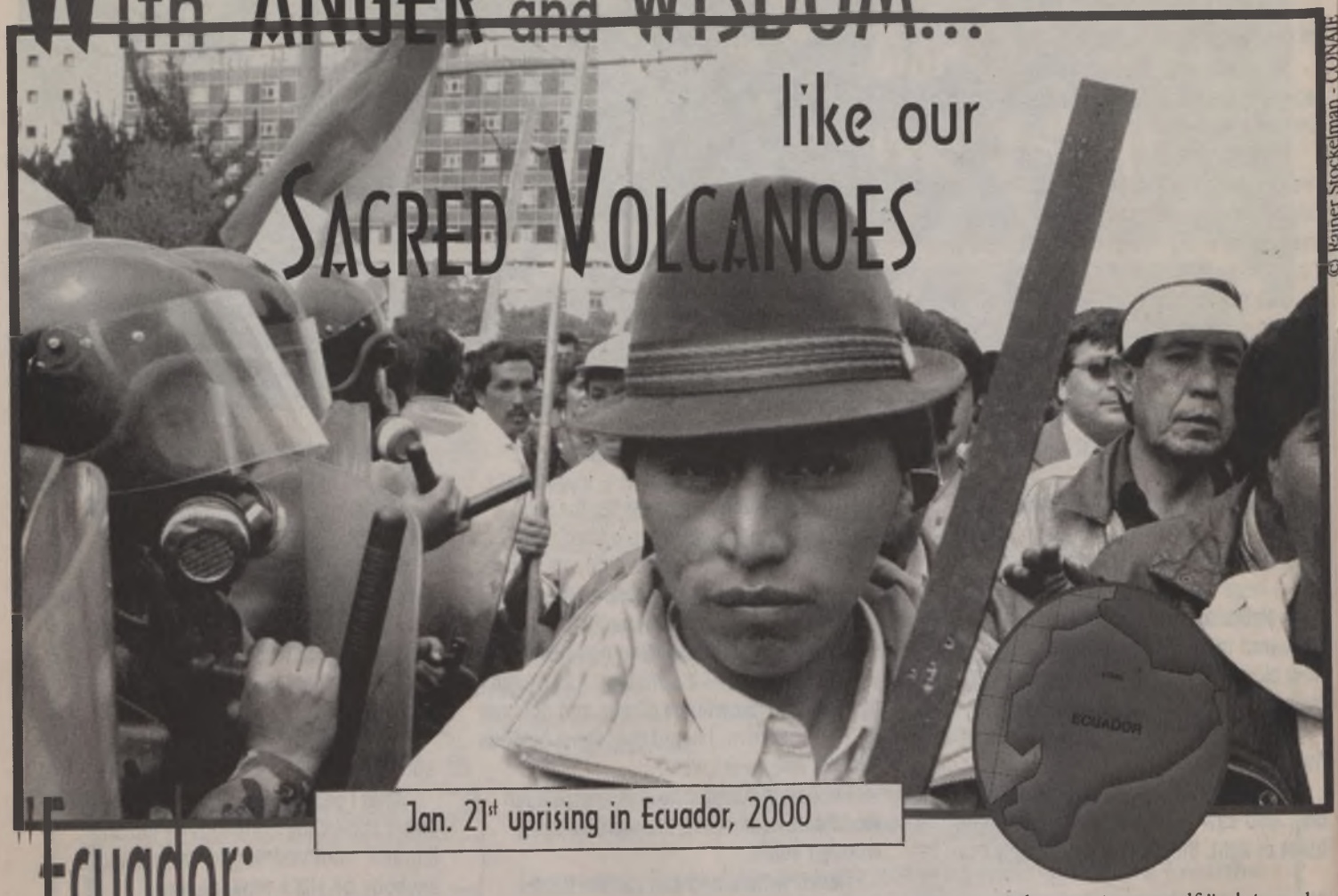
Author Vine Deloria Jr., a member of Standing Rock Sioux tribe in North and South Dakota, weaves a philosophical thread through the film, starting with a chapter on Indian humour in his 1970 book "Custer Died for Your Sins." He explains how "Indian humour has been the central aspect of Indian life."

Charlie Hill, says Deloria, is fighting centuries of stereotypes. Hill says he's prepared for that battle, and brags about his education at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' School for Comedy.

I wonder if Hill ever wore a military uniform as a schoolboy. That's a picture I'd love to see. I expect Hill would be staring at the camera and smiling an impish smile.

Mark Trahant is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (www.hcn.org). He heads the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education in Oakland, California.

With ANGER and WISDOM... like our SACRED VOLCANOES



© Rainer Stockelman - CONAIE

Jan. 21st uprising in Ecuador, 2000

"Ecuador. Where the cold whisper of the Andes is the guide for an encounter with your inner self," claims the English-language ad hanging in the window of a travel agency. I am in Quito, the capital of Ecuador. We are almost at the equator line, but the weather is cool due to the high altitude (2,800 metres).

The "cold whisper of the Andes" ad is unnoticed by local people, who are too busy feeding their children, dealing with runaway inflation and paying back interest on the country's foreign debt. Perhaps they have already found their inner selves by now. At any rate, they are not considered potential customers for the ad. Most can't read it since they don't understand English; illiteracy is high.

With 12.4 million inhabitants – 40 percent of them Native – Ecuador is one of the smaller nations of South America. The country extends from the Galapagos Islands, a remarkable natural sanctuary far out in the Pacific Ocean, across the high ranges of the Andes Mountains and eastward to the eastern tropical forests of the Amazon.

Volcano summits burst the clouds at 5,000 metres and over. Ecuador's highest peak is Chimborazo (6,310 metres). Here in the highlands is the traditional territory of the Kichua Native people, who number almost four million and account for 85 percent of Ecuador's Aboriginals. Poverty has forced many to move from their mountain communities to the capital or the Amazon lowlands.

Some volcanoes remain quite dangerous. Several are permanently monitored by geologists because of their closeness to densely populated areas. Just as Canadians read about snowstorm forecasts, Ecuadoreans can follow the details of seismic activities on the news every day, before taking the pulse of the country's other convulsions – inflation, devaluation, political coups and Native uprisings, all of them a big part of the national landscape.

by Mary Ellen Davis

Elections in Otavalo

Otavalo is a peaceful community at almost any time of the year. It is only an hour and a half away from the capital. The small, picturesque town is also a tourist attraction thanks to its market, mountains, nearby villages and quiet surroundings.

The Kichua Indians from Otavalo are known as world travellers. Dispersed across Latin America, Europe, North America and the Caribbean, they practise many trades – commerce, music, handicraft, tourism. Many families in Otavalo are very poor, in particular the farmers. But some have been able to build their own entreprises.

> "There are many ways of resisting.
> We are a peaceful population -- we use our intelligence, not weapons."

This year – for the first time – a Kichua was elected mayor of Otavalo. It may seem odd that a municipality with a strong Native majority has never before had a Native mayor. But until now, there has been little Aboriginal representation in Parliament or city councils.

In fact, until recently, the Native movement asked members not to vote at all. Its view was that politics were just too prone to corruption and would never solve their problems. But in 1995, the same movement decided to found a party to try to win space within the political realm.

Pachakutik (or New Country), as it's called, gathers both Native and non-Native candidates in defense of broad issues such as – a multinational state, grassroots democracy, better distribution of wealth, the fight against corruption.

Politics still hasn't replaced other methods of protest. Ecuador's first nations rely mostly on their ability to "close down" the whole country through massive protest actions, like blockading roads for days or weeks. "Levantamientos" (peaceful uprisings) are still the favourite strategy.

But most Aboriginals also support Pachakutik's electoral option. In spite of very modest campaign funds, candidates have been winning more and more seats in Congress and municipalities.

Native people are now seeing first-hand that politics can be dirty business. Some think it's like biting into a rotten apple. Otavalo had elections earlier this year that caused divisions in the community. There happened to be not only one but two Native candidates running for mayor. Both seemed committed to a just cause. Opinions are split among the local Kichua, however.

On the one hand there was Mario Conejo. To his critics, he was a candidate who catered to the white population, an opportunist. Then there was Carmen Yamberla – criticized as a radical extremist.

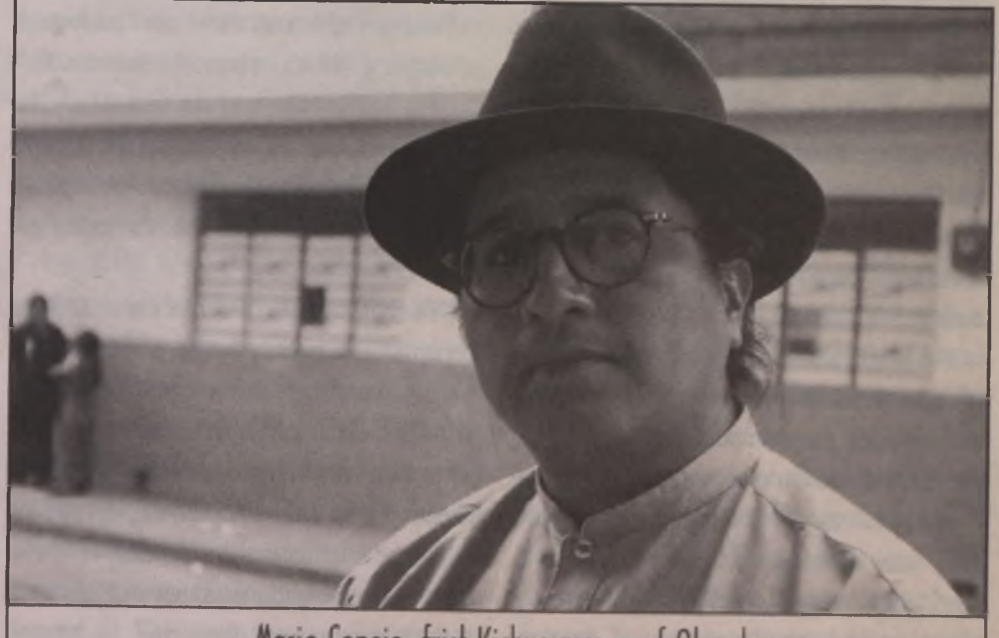
The electoral clash helps give a glimpse into the problems facing Ecuador's first nations and how hard it is to challenge them together.

Many ways to resist

Mario Conejo was the winner of the mayoral election. He comes from a privileged Kichua family –his brother Roberto is director of a local environmental and cultural-studies centre; his sister works as a physician for a local health clinic; a younger brother is an architect. Several family members won grants to study in Cuba back in the days when the island could still afford to give academic training to other third world citizens.

When interviewed, Conejo sounded like any politician on the campaign trail. His pragmatism may have allowed him to win the votes of less progressive, non-Native voters. It was a safe ticket to heaven. "Native people can help construct a pluricultural society, find new opportunities by learning how the system works and use it to their own advantage," he said. "The environment is our priority, as is quality of life, health and education for all. We also want to improve trade networks and the tourist industry, at the same time strengthening native culture."

Roberto Conejo knows his brother the mayor faces a big challenge. "Racist views within our society have made our people



Mario Conejo, frist Kichua mayor of Otavalo

underestimate their ability to manage their own lives and society in general," says Roberto.

"The fact that Mario won the seat as mayor is a sign that times are changing. However, if mistakes are committed, they will show much more than if the mayor was white," he says.

Carmen Yamberla, Conejo's challenger, was a big contrast. She was of humble origins and has been accused of selfishly splitting the Native vote. In conversation, she sounds like more of an idealist than her ex-rival.

She may have lost the elections, but remains a key figure in Otavalo. She is the leader of a community-based organization, the Indigenous Peoples and Farmers Federation of Imbabura (or FICI), which has 80,000 members.

Yamberla started working with youth groups on issues of women's rights, cultural identity, education and equality. Over the years, Native women have been learning how much they actually contribute to the community and are growing confident within the movement. However, for Yamberla, her devotion to the movement has also meant a sacrifice; at age 35, she still has no children, a rare occurrence in her society.

One of FICI's projects is Jambi Huasi, a private non-profit health centre that combines both traditional Native healing methods and western medical care. Working side by side with general practitioners and university-trained specialists are healers from the communities. Among them are "yachacs" who use herbal and natural medicine as well as spiritual healing, "fregadors" who are like chiropractors, and "mamahuas" or midwives.

The Jambi Huasi Health Clinic has had some of its projects financed by a United Nations development program and has applied for funds to a Canadian development organization.

Yamberla says the indigenous federation FICI "has always worked on both levels – social and political development. There's a clash between the Native view of development, which may be slower and less lucrative but is sustainable, and the western view of development – more technical, more competitive and less preoccupied with consequences.

"How can we guarantee for our people a dignified life, a healthy life, an unpolluted territory, in the long term?" Yamberla asks. "Dollars and technology are not the solution to everything. We have been losing our values, such as mutual respect and respect towards Elders. Our traditional knowledge must be part of any development plan."

Yamberla adds that there are "many ways of resisting. We are a peaceful population – we use our intelligence, not weapons." She tells of how, last year in January, the government tried to prevent her group from making a protest march to Quito, but the group got through anyway.

"We got through the blockades and we occupied Congress," she says. "Most of us were women. There was strict traffic control to prohibit us from travelling, but we marched on with our musical instruments, with our dances. There's also another way of reaching out – the international community. People in other countries understand our struggle, even if their governments disapprove. In January, we made the continent shake."

Soldiers break up road block on Pan-American Highway

Blockade on the Pan-American Highway

An unexpected example of the resistance was taking place the day I made my way back to Quito. Not far outside Otavalo, local school teachers had blocked the Pan-American Highway with tree stumps and sharp stones. Truck drivers were told to park diagonally, then their tires were flattened.

The teachers belonged to the Asociación indígena evangélica de Imbabura, an association of Native evangelical teachers. It was the day before a national protest action planned by the main teachers' union, by then in its fourth week of a strike. The evangelical groups are known to do things on their own terms...

There was no advance warning of a road closing, so people had decided to travel. Many passengers in our bus supported the protest. They said inflation had caused the teachers' pay to shrink to nothing. An older women, non-Native, also an activist for justice, was even thrilled – "even if it means I can't get through!" She said Ecuadoreans must join together to fight against the common causes of their economic distress.

But there was uncertainty in the air. What

was going to happen? Should we go back? How could we, if blockades were also behind us? We were trapped! I was seated next to two young Otavalo Kichuas, José Manuel and Cesar, who were going into town to buy materials for their hand-made crafts.

They also thought the teachers deserved an increase, though they thought negotiation was the next logical step. One of them had participated in student demonstrations against racial discrimination. In those days, he said, people would be kidnapped and "disappeared" because of their activism. Things are not as violent anymore.

Nobody knew when the barricades would be lifted or how many miles they continued. Answers were intentionally vague. Several army jeeps and trucks came up. Soldiers jumped out and dismantled the obstacles – but avoided committing any physical violence against civilians. (The Ecuadorean army is not the most violent in Latin America.)

The protesters instantly raised another blockade as soon as one was undone. Our bus driver and another one decided to follow the army's path. This was a very bad idea – or perhaps they didn't act quickly enough. The protesters reacted quickly.

They ran towards our buses with stones and started aiming. Passengers were inside. The Otavalo kids shouted: "Close the curtains!" This would prevent stones from hitting too hard. Both drivers went into reverse gear and started speeding backwards towards a safe spot, in an amazing chase scene happening in the wrong direction. There was considerable panic among passengers.

> "With anger and wisdom, like our sacred volcanoes, we shall build a country that is plurinational, just, equal and profoundly participative."

Everybody sheltered their heads in case a rock crashed in. Both busses almost collided. It was now harder to cheer for the protesters, from inside. A lady was shouting at them: "Why attack us? We are simple citizens – we're not responsible for your troubles."

In Latin America, evangelical churches are known for their conservative tendencies. Their followers recently started joining social movements. I couldn't help thinking that if evangelical teachers are desperate enough to throw large stones, then the situation in Ecuador has truly reached a point of rupture.

The stone rain stopped when both buses were trapped in an exit detour. This is what the protesters had wanted – to completely paralyze vehicle movement. The passengers were let out, relieved. The second bus had all its windows smashed. José Manuel, Cesar and I walked away without any problem, to the end of the village, where we jumped into another bus all the way to Quito. I invited them for a late lunch. The soup was tastier than ever, after the chaotic morning.

Corruption and poverty linked

In the 1970s, large oil deposits were discovered in the Ecuador's eastern Amazon region. The government bought shares in some oil companies' national operations. Wealth was just around the corner. Then, it vanished. The poor remained poor, and before they knew it, citizens were now expected to make huge interest payments on the foreign debt.

The International Monetary Fund has recommended structural readjustments in Ecuador, like in all countries, even Canada. "Suggested" measures include privatization of national resources, as well as reducing government services. This has usually meant lower budgets for health, education and welfare.

Meanwhile, corruption runs rampant. Ecuador was listed as one of the world's most corrupt countries – 82nd out of 99 (with 99th being the worst) – in a 1999 report from the European anti-corruption group Transparency International.

Why did international institutions ever give loans to a government with this kind of reputation and known for its lack of democracy? Were the loans of any benefit to the people? Many solidarity organizations and church groups, in Canada and elsewhere, have pleaded with the first world to cancel the debts of the poorest countries.

The government's corruption, in turn, prevents it from efficiently fighting poverty and discrimination, according to most Ecuadoreans. Natives remain excluded from wealth and power except for a few isolated cases. Estimates of the number of poor range from 5.1 million to 7.5 million. Four out of five of the poor are Native.

Almost 80 percent of the children in the country live in poverty; the vast majority of poor children live in the countryside. In 1999, the number of children in poverty rose by 22 percent. The number of school drop-outs also increased dramatically.

Indians sold on haciendas

The dire social conditions have led to major unrest. Five major uprisings have occurred in Ecuador since 1990, while smaller ones occur more frequently. Uprisings consist of anything from a blockade or a squat to mass demonstrations and even coups d'etat. Often, Native women, children and elderly will simply sit quietly on the road. Roads are shut down and markets eventually run out of supplies.

The protests are usually well-organized and disciplined, spearheaded and coordinated by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (known as CONAIE). They work closely with social movements and political dissidents, all forming a broad alliance.

Like the Assembly of First Nations, CONAIE is formed by a network of many Native associations, themselves connected to three major confederations organized by region – the coast, the highlands and the Amazon.

The Kichua belong to 13 distinct groups, but share a common language. Less numerous Native peoples live in the Amazon region and along the Pacific coast, with very diverse cultural characteristics. The largest are the Shuar, who number 100,000 in southeastern Ecuador.

The smallest are nations such as the Secoya and the Zaparo, reduced to 200 or less. Like other Amazonian Indians, these small groups have faced the drastic consequences of oil prospecting and extraction, as well as mining operations.

Many years ago, the first priorities of Native organizations were land reform and land rights. Until the early '70s, land belonged to large private estates. Native people were mere labourers on their own territory. An "hacienda" – as a ranch was called – would be sold "with its Indians."

Land reform allowed Aboriginals to recuperate their land in many cases. Land rights remain an important issue especially in the Amazon region, where resources are vanishing into the hands of multinational companies.

Two young travelers who were trapped between the barricades

Over the years, the Native movement adopted other issues – cultural identity, collective rights, "plurinationality" (Ecuador's version of multiculturalism), autonomy and the fight against poverty and discrimination.

Violent methods were rejected and a long-term strategy of peaceful protests started winning a lot of support among the non-Native population. Very large mobilizations helped pressure the government to enter direct talks on political reform. The mobilizations were increasingly coordinated by CONAIE, which was founded in 1986.

The "Poncho Revolution"

In January 2000, a major uprising rocked Ecuador and ended with the downfall of President Jamil Mahuad. on the 21st. This time, the protest action made world news.

The rebellion started with the first-ever session of the National Parliament of the Peoples of Ecuador (or PNPE) on January 11, with delegates sent from all provincial parliaments. Next, the Native population answered the organizations' call to march on the capital and paralyze the country. They converged on the capital from the poorest regions, in spite of army and police roadblocks. Many were stopped, but even larger numbers were able to reach Quito.

Ultimately, even the army helped this time, having dissidents among its own ranks. Troops finally let crowds storm into the government buildings, take over Congress and the presidential palace, and install their own Parliament. Over 200 army officers participated in the uprising.

Native activist Antonio Vargas, president of CONAIE, emerged as a national leader for the movement. Other community figures such as Carmen Yamberla (the mayoral candidate in Otavalo) and Salvador Quishpe, leader of the Kichua, also played key roles.

But with success came problems. Some of the Native leaders entered into a controversial alliance with the military. A provisional junta was formed with three leaders – CONAIE president Antonio Vargas, a former judge and an army colonel, Lucio Gutierrez, who had led military support for the uprising.

Gutierrez was quickly replaced by General Carlos Mendoza, who had an idea in his head. The next morning, Mendoza pulled out of the provisional government, a surprise move that meant the country's vice-president, Gustavo Noboa, inherited the presidency.

CONAIE and the Native movement lost its grasp on power just as quickly as they had won it. Gustavo Mendoza proclaimed that he had "saved the country from chaos." Most Ecuadoreans believe otherwise. The common feeling is that Ecuador's military high command wrote the last twist of the plot after consulting with the U.S. Embassy.

Fistful of dollars

President Noboa immediately declared he'd maintain the former president's detested programs, which had sparked the revolt in the first place. So the old government was overthrown but the same policies would remain.

Most disliked was the "dollarization" process, a major concern behind the uprising. By law, since last February, all transactions must happen in U.S. dollars instead of "sucres," Ecuador's national currency. Banks now deal only in U.S. dollars.

The measure – people are told – is meant to stabilize the economy and prevent inflation. But it's hard to find an Ecuadorean who believes this. The yearly inflation rate has shot up from 60 to almost 100 percent. The price of gasoline and electricity keeps climbing. The basic grocery list is 260 U.S.$ for a family of five, while average income for the same family is only 116 U.S.$. That's just enough to buy 44 percent of the necessary goods.

Most Ecuadoreans feel dollarization has hurt their country's sovereignty. After all, the United States have always hovered over Latin America's political independence, when not concocting plans to crush local movements struggling for equality and social justice. The same concerns about U.S. influence sparked off spectacular demonstrations in July 1999 against the increasing number of U.S. Army bases in Ecuador.

The dollarization strategy is tied in people's minds to the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). This is a new economic pact similar to the North American Free Trade Agreement, except it will integrate all the Americas, not only the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The deal will be discussed in Quebec City at the Summit of the Americas in April 2001. If the FTAA is ever approved, some fear it might mean that "for our own good" people in Canada will also have to adopt the U.S. dollar as our currency... But perhaps not, if we follow the path of Ecuador's Native movement in its fight against neo-liberalism.

Who are the outlaws?

In the days following the uprising, arrest warrants were issued for leaders and participants, including 180 army officers. Antonio Vargas went underground for a while, but not without releasing a strong statement: "If you're searching for those responsible for the coup, you will find them inside the powerful families, inside Parliament, inside courts and among corrupt bankers, whose policies and banditism have only deepened misery, hunger, unemployment, migrations from country to city.

"If you want to bring us to trial and throw us in prison, you will have to build enormous prisons, because millions of us participated, in villages and cities. But remember that no wall, no jail bars, will stop our ideas or our struggle: With anger and wisdom, like our sacred volcanoes, we shall build a country that is plurinational, just, equal and profoundly participative," he said.

When I visited Ecuador last year in May, I was allowed into the press gallery of the Congress during an extraordinary session held to discuss amnesty for citizens who had participated in the uprising, including security forces still under arrest in military jails.

> "Dollars and technology are not the solution to everything."

I listened to the final moments of a heated and historical debate as local journalists gave me some clues about who the speakers were. Those who defended the amnesty motion argued that the rebels had fought to defend the Constitution against a president who broke it. Therefore, the real outlaws were corrupt government figures. Opponents qualified the protesters as a wild bunch of adventurists who had put the country into jeopardy.

While listening, I contemplated the great mural behind the Congress tribune, with huge paintings by Guayasamín, Ecuador's best known artist – vivid shapes of human pain, fear and love, and the head of an army man with the initials "CIA" written on his helmet.

The amnesty motion won – an important victory for Native and social organizations.

The next step

Protesters had originally expected that last year's uprising would result in negotiations with the president. His departure came almost as a surprise. As an afterthought, some participants conclude that the transi-

continued on page 17

Commission de la fonction publique du Canada

Public Service Commission of Canada

Directrice exécutive ou directeur exécutif, Entreprise autochtone Canada

Industrie Canada

OTTAWA (ONTARIO)

Poste offert aux peuples autochtones – Indiens(iennes), Inuit et Métis(es)* résidant ou travaillant au Canada.

En tant que directeur exécutif ou directrice exécutive, vous serez responsable de la prestation efficace d'un programme de contribution et d'intervention de plusieurs millions de dollars du gouvernement. Vous collaborerez avec toute une gamme d'intervenants des secteurs public et privé, et recevrez de l'orientation d'un conseil d'administration du secteur privé national. En tant que responsable d'une direction d'Industrie Canada, vous relèverez du sous-ministre adjoint associé, Secteur des opérations. Vous toucherez un salaire variant entre **93 200 $** et **109 600 $.**

Pour être admissible, vous devez détenir un baccalauréat en commerce, en économie, en administration des affaires, ou publique, en sciences politiques, en sciences ou génie, ou dans une spécialité liée aux fonctions du poste, ou un agencement acceptable d'études, de formation et d'expérience. Il vous faut également des antécédents professionnels dans la planification, l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre de programmes au niveau de la haute gestion ou des cadres de la direction; de l'établissement de relations de colloboration et fournir des avis stratégiques aux cadres supérieurs; de la présentation de conseils stratégiques à des cadres supérieurs, y compris des ministres; de la gestion de ressources humaines et financières dans une grande organisation décentralisée ou régionalisée; de la négociation, de la communication et du travail avec les peuples autochtones dans un contexte de développement économique.

La maîtrise de l'anglais et du français est essentielle.

Si ce poste vous intéresse, veuillez postuler en direct ou soumettre votre curriculum vitæ et le formulaire de demande d'emploi CFP 3391 (que vous pouvez obtenir à la Commission de la fonction publique du Canada), en indiquant clairement de quelle façon vous répondez aux exigences du poste, en précisant votre citoyenneté et **en mentionnant le numéro de référence DUS16485-3,** d'ici **le 15 février 2001,** à **Gisèle Lefebvre, Adjointe à l'information des données, Unité centrale de traitement, Programmes des cadres de la direction, Commission de la fonction publique du Canada, 300, avenue Laurier Ouest, 21ième étage, L'Esplanade Laurier, Tour ouest, pièce B2162, Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0M7. Télécopieur : (613) 995-1099. Courriel : exposter@psc-cfp.gc.ca**

* En tant qu'employeur respectueux de l'équité en matière d'emploi, Industrie Canada s'engage à se doter d'un effectif compétent, représentatif de la population canadienne. Par conséquent, ce poste est doté en vertu du Programme d'équité en emploi – Recrutement externe de la Commission de la fonction publique.

Nous remercions tous ceux et celles qui soumettent leur candidature; nous ne communiquerons qu'avec les personnes choisies pour la prochaine étape. La préférence sera accordée aux citoyennes et aux citoyens canadiens.

Nous souscrivons au principe de l'équité en matière d'emploi.

This information is available in English.

http://emplois.gc.ca

Canada

With Anger and Wisdom...

continued from page 15

tional government was doomed to failure since the alliance with the military was unwise from the beginning.

These observers say the only reliable force is a well-organized civilian response, including Natives and non-Natives. There was a sense of pride and joy during the uprising, but afterwards there was also general agreement that it had not yet been time to take over. The people are not ready to assume power; they still have to strengthen their own movement and networks.

Amnesty was the first issue submitted to a "consulta popular," or popular vote, by the Peoples' Parliament and CONAIE as a strategy to put pressure on politicians.

Over a million voters expressed their support for several radical measures – dissolving Congress and the Supreme Court, calling for new elections and new nomination procedures for candidates, prohibiting dollarization, prohibiting privatization of any national resource or social program, cancelling unjust foreign debt, and finally, banning foreign military bases.

"We now know our strength."

"The aim isn't to oust presidents – it's to change the way of imagining power and leadership in this country," Kichua leader Salvador Quishpe said in a statement after the uprising. "If in the process, people must be substituted, then let them go."

Quishpe is now involved in the Peoples' Parliament movement and is president of the Parliament of Peoples of Pichincha, the province surrounding the capital city of Quito. He believes the movement is the best guarantee of direct democracy and grassroots participation.

I followed him to a local meeting in his own neighboorhood, San Roque. It is a poor district that climbs into the hills and has an awful reputation for thieves. People at the meeting assure me there are many more honest, hard-working citizens in San Roque than in wealthy districts.

Many here are Kichuas from the Chimborazo, the area that surrounds Ecuador's tallest mountain. They were forced away from their homes because of extreme poverty. Here, life is also difficult. Residents say the district is completely neglected by authorities, who never come to visit.

Salvador Quishpe is speaking to a group of 15 neighbours, many of them street sellers, owners of tiny shops or market stalls. "The country's wealth has vanished into the hands of corrupt authorities. We don't know where the foreign loans have gone. We don't know where the fortune from oil extraction has gone. And now the government is selling our national resources at a devalued rate," he says.

"Our Peoples' Parliaments will find other forms of organizing society. We must think of alternative development plans. We need to change the way government works. We must establish our own trade systems and learn how to participate creatively in a new form of power."

This kind of work is ant-like. Results take time. Quishpe, interested in the foundations of a movement, follows a strategy meant to empower citizens of all sorts. With a background in sociology, he has a long-term view of the struggle.

He goes on: "People have been rising up spontaneously, being under incredible economic pressure. Our Parliaments will help orient this force, so it is not in vain, so we may harvest some results in our effort to change the country. Parliaments are a national project, based on units such as the neighbourhood committee you are about to form, gathering Natives and other citizens.

"Long-term changes don't happen overnight. We are against rapid and violent change and against the use of weapons. Our aim is that people reach a level of awareness and this will take many years. The Native movement has gained internal strength over the last 20 years, and since January we have joined efforts with non-Natives. We now know our strength."

This is the seventh of our seven-part series on First Nations peoples in Latin America. Montreal filmmaker Mary Ellen Davis is the project coordinator of this special series of stories.

Produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Agreement on Cree Trappers' Association

Operations Funding with Quebec

Agreement on Cree Trappers' Association
On December 19, 2000 President Thomas Coon of the CTA and Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses signed an agreement with the Government of Quebec for the long-term funding of the operations of the Association. "This has been three years in coming and we are glad that we have been successful" said Thomas Coon. "The agreement clears the way for the CTA and Quebec to talk about future program funding and it also helps us to be more financially stable" he continued.

"This Agreement was called for in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and with constant effort over the past three years we have finally succeeded in finalizing this part of the CTA funding with Quebec. The Agreement is an implementation of the Treaty and as such protects and puts into force Cree rights. I thank Minister Sauvé for his persistence in finding a solution to this issue. We count on his support and the continued support of Minister Chevrette in working towards implementation of the Treaty." said the Grand Chief.

The agreement is retroactive to last year (1999/2000) and continues for five years (March 31, 2005). The annual and indexed payment of $200,000 per year helps the CTA to pay its staff and in addition $100,000/year (indexed) goes towards programs run by the Association. In the JBNQA it calls for feasibility studies to be carried out on the Association and on the programs to be run by it. While the feasibility study was done on the Association, those called in regard to programs were not carried out. The agreement to formalize the funding for the operation of the Association was never put into place. As a result, up until the present the Association could never be sure of the next year's funding and was consequently constrained in carrying-out long term planning. Also, the Crees have funded the Association over the years for more than the funding of the Canada and Quebec combined, even though the obligation is primarily an obligation of Quebec and Canada.

"The funding for the CTA must come from Canada, Quebec and the Crees as is set out in the Treaty. Quebec has now finalized its commitment until 2005. We will not be able to function properly as the CTA until we secure all of the funding. Canada's participation in operations funding for the CTA has not yet been resolved" stated Thomas Coon.

ᐊᓂᔑᓇᐯᒧᐎᓐ ᓀᐦᐃᔨᓯᐏᐣ (ᐊᐢᑕᐍᐢ ᐊᓯᐦ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

ᐃᓕᓴᐤ ᑕᐢᑭᒪᓯᐤ
Cree Regional Authority
Administration Régionale Crie

Tammy Beauvais
Native Fashion

Tammy Beauvais is a new designer on the scene, who owns her own company making unique clothing and accessories with an Aboriginal theme. I first came across Beauvais's work at a Christmas office party. Since I had done some work for the Eastern Door, the Mohawk newspaper, I received an invite. To my surprise I won first pick of the presents. The Eastern Door gives out tickets and you pick from a table of presents in order of being picked. I looked over the presents and just before I picked up a portable CD player, someone remarked that there were scarves. Well, one look and I was hooked. There was this green cashmere scarf with a beautiful design on it. The design was in black and had an Eagle flying over a tree, which in turn was over a criss-crossed axe and club. It was love at first sight. I hadn't felt that way since Sandra Nash back in the fourth grade. Now it's coming up to Valentines Day and I know that people are desperately looking for that perfect gift. Here is something that is both beautiful and Native.

The Nation: When did you get started?

Tammy Beauvais: I started in January of 1999. I've been doing this type of work since I was 10. My mother used to design leather clothing like vests. I was always watching her and my grandmother. So I just started doing it. I went to Indian Way School here in Kahnawake. Part of what they taught was our traditional ways. They taught us how to make traditional clothing. I started doing children's traditional clothing. I was 13 when I sold my first piece of clothing and I never stopped.

I continued it as a hobby and when I started college I did it to make extra money to go through school.

All through my teenage years I always worked in companies doing sewing contracts. It was something I liked to do.

Vest - $160

Shirt - $60 • Scarf - $50

So you basically started by yourself and built on your experience?

About three years before I started this business I was in Winnipeg and started doing the groundwork. I became part of the Aboriginal Fashion Designers Association. I founded it along with three other women. We did research and fashion shows together. Then from there I was introduced to an entrepreneur's course. I eventually did a total of three of them. The next one was six months in school followed by six weeks internship. The last one was here in Kahnawake, which lasted ten weeks.

But before I came back here I was with a well-known Canadian designer, Linda Lundstrom in Toronto. She designs clothing and has sales of about 14-15 million dollars a year. She utilizes native symbols in some of her work. She contracts out to Native artists who do the artwork. I went and worked with her company for six months.

Hat - $30

Looking for Stringers!!!!!!!!!

What is a stringer you ask? A stringer is a freelance writer. Here at the Nation we are looking for people to cover local events in the communities when we can't make it there. If you are interested:
Call-in or e-mail us and talk to the Nation.
Phone 1-514-272-3077 and ask for Will. Email: will@beesum-communications.com

The Canada Education Savings Grant

WE'LL HELP YOUR SAVINGS GROW AS QUICKLY AS YOUR CHILD!

The Government of Canada is working with Canadians to help families save for a child's post-secondary education.

- The **Canada Education Savings Grant** adds 20% to the first $2,000 you deposit annually into a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP).
- Each child can receive a grant of up to $400 per year.
- Any parent, grandparent, family member or friend may start an RESP for a child.
- The important thing is to start today. Even small savings will grow over time.

For more information, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232) and ask about the Canada Education Savings Grant or visit our Web site at **www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/cesg**

Using TTY devices, call 1 800 465-7735.

Youth Employment Strategy — Stratégie emploi jeunesse

Canada

Let us know:

Is there a powwow, gathering, festival, tournament or other community event that you want people to know about?
Is there something that the company or organization that you work for is doing that should be noticed by others in Native America?
Is there someone in your community such as an Elder or other role modal that you think deserves to be recognized?
What are your federal, tribal, provincial, and local politicians up to?
Is there anybody running to take their place that you think would do a better job?
Is there something that is hurting Native people and needs to be brought to light so that it can be put to an end?
What issues (local, national, and international) do think are not getting the press they deserve?
DO you have a story that would make people laugh?

Call *the Nation* at
514-272-3077
Ask for Will,
Alex or Brian Z.
Confidentuality asssured

Purse - $75

Did you go from working on the floor to ...?

Yes, everywhere. I worked in the whole company. She was very good with me. She sent me to Aboriginal Achievement Awards, fashion shows, trade shows. I got to see everything.

Before I had worked for a company with 1 employee and another with 4 employees. Now I was working with one that had 150 employees. I got to see how you started and how you got bigger this way.

So once I finished that training I came back home. I didn't think this business would work in Winnipeg so I came back and started right away.

I started selling door to door. There was this young man, who was a childhood friend, he helped me with the sales. From that he went to stores and then we started going to retail shows. We did that for a year and a half. We started to hire people through programs like KJETA. We trained people through that program. I was lucky that Kahnawake has one of the model economic development commissions.

Right now we are starting to expand and focus on the wholesale aspect. We plan to do this through trade shows and have three lined up in March. Two are in the U.S. and the third is in Toronto. We're still going to do retail.

What sells for us is the Native designs. Our most popular is the Iroquois but we do the Ojibway medicine wheel and Kokapelli. We have an artist here that is going to do some of her work.

We do simple things that have meaning and stories to them. We have a good team.

I spotted most of them on the street and said to myself they looked like good people to work here. It worked out and those ones worked out better than the ones I interviewed. For me anyways. There are four full-time employees and one part-time.

We have a very positive environment here. It's not all about making money through we'd like to do that too.

I think one of my strong points is managing people and having them want to come to work rather than not want to come to work.

Ties- $30

Where are you heading next?

Well, we're going to have to contract some of the work out because we're working to capacity.

Are you looking at a cottage industry in Kahnawake?

Yes, but that would come later. I'm looking to contract out in Montreal. That's what we have to do to survive. It takes a lot of work to train people in the community and I'm only one person, at this point, trying to manage everything. Keeping the store open, creating things, selling and buying, there's so much to it and I I'm not ready to start a whole cottage industry.

That is one of my eventual goals and has been from the beginning is to do a cottage industry in Kahnawake and see more employment for the people here. We'll see what happens.

Satin scarves - $75

The cashmere scarf worn by Tammy and those shown below carry the Hiawatha belt motif, created by two great leaders of the Iriquois Confederacy, the Peacemaker and Hiawatha. The belt symbolizes the unification of 5 Nations living under one law, The Great Law of Peace.

For those of you who would like to purchase any of Tammy Beauvais's work. **Phone 514-272-3077 and ask for Aaron.**

Cashmere scarves - $50

1 0 0 % G U A R A N T E E D

CANADA PREMIUM BOND			CANADA SAVINGS BOND
5.25%	**5.50%**	**5.75%**	**4.40%***
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1
Series 18 – Annual compound rate of 5.49% for C-bond if held for 3 years			Series 69

Perfect for the secure part of your RRSP

Series 18 and 69 available only until February 1, 2001

There's never been a better time to buy New Canada Savings Bonds than right now. If you haven't considered this option before, you should seriously think about holding them within your RRSP. You'll receive all the security of New Canada Savings Bonds combined with all the benefits of an RRSP.

The new Canada Premium Bond offers a higher rate of return at the time of issue than the CSB on sale at the same time; it is cashable once a year on the anniversary of the issue date and during the 30 days thereafter. The original Canada Savings Bond is as flexible as ever and cashable anytime. And of course both are 100% guaranteed by the Government of Canada and also available for your RRIF.

You can buy New Canada Savings Bonds wherever you bank or invest and as always, there are absolutely no fees of any kind.

To buy direct, call **1·888·773·9999**

For more information, visit **www.csb.gc.ca**

NEW CANADA SAVINGS BONDS
YOU'RE ON SOLID GROUND.

Canada

* This rate also applies to Canada Savings Bonds Series 57 and 63 issued February 1, 1999 and February 1, 2000 respectively, for the year beginning February 1, 2001.

BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

Last night I was in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in southern Spain. While taking a long walk I marveled at the star-studded night sky. I love looking up at the night sky and get great comfort out of sitting back and staring up at the stars. Star gazing has always given me a perspective of where I fit in on mother earth. The heavens above are so vast and infinite and I understand very well that I am only one of the billions of beings walking this planet as it moves through space.

I have always had an interest in astronomy. When I am in a different part of the world and far away from where I was born and raised in Attawapiskat, in northern Ontario, gazing at the night sky reminds me I still have something in common with everyone back home. From the top of the mountains here in Spain I see the same stars that everyone back home would. I find some comfort in this awareness.

The night sky has always been very important to my people, the Crees of James Bay. I recall feeling safe and secure in our 24-foot freighter canoe guided by my dad, Marius, as he looked to the star-lit sky for navigation. Even in the dark he showed me it was possible to know where you are going by simply locating the very bright northern star. This star is called "Keewaytino-oso," northern star, by my people.

He pointed out that as long as you know where Keewaytino-oso was then you knew where north was. A star-studded sky on a clear night also provided us sufficient light to see our way on the water and towards the Attawapiskat River and home after an excursion out on the land.

My father also taught me I would never be really lost on the land because I could always look to the sun and the moon for direction. It is good to have the certainty that the sun and the moon always rise in the east and set in the west. Although these are just general indications, this is information that can be very helpful when you are out on a snowmobile riding on frozen James Bay where everything looks the same. It is also helpful when you are out on the great waters of James Bay in a freighter canoe, where once again every looks the same.

The wind and the trees are also very helpful in providing guidance when we are out on the land on the James Bay coast. If you are in a storm or it is cloudy and you can't see the sun or the moon, you can look to the trees for guidance. My dad taught me that the trees lean a little to the south side. They point this way because of the powerful northern winds that come from the north and blow to the south. These treetops are like a compass needle for us out on the land as they give us an indication of what is north and what is south.

Landmarks are also very important for the Crees of James Bay. My dad and many of the Elders who hunt and trap along James Bay can tell what direction to head in by referring to the coastline map they have memorized in their heads. They can look at a thin line of coast and recognize points on the land. I find that I use landmarks a lot even when I am in big cities. I don't really have to know a map of the city as long as I have a couple of landmarks to refer to; then I can find my way around. One thing about growing up on the land is you get very comfortable in places where most people would feel lost. I am grateful for these teachings and I will always have them with me wherever I go.

fleuriste
NAPOLEON
1-800-267-1358
655, 2e Avenue
Val-d'Or (Québec)
J9P 1W5
Tél : (819) 824-1358
Fax : (819)-824-5984

ARNOLD
CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE
2595, Godbout
Jonquière
(Québec)
G7S 5B1
Ken Blackburn
Conseiller aux Ventes
Tél: (418) 548-0821
Téléc: (418) 548-0921
Rés: (418) 549-9954
1 (800) 830-0821

LUCIEN RABY
DIRECTEUR DES VENTES
Gareau
Cadillac
Centre auto DE VÉHICULES COMMERCIAUX
GM
1100, 3e Avenue Est
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 4P8
Bur: (819) 825-6880
Fax: (819) 825-8980
1-877-625-6880
E-mail: gareauauto@gmcanada.com

A Good Step in Your Healing Journey
THE NATIVE HEALING CONNECTION
A tool-free referral line for help in healing from sexual abuse.
1-888-600-5464
Edmonton area: (780) 433-6286
The Native Healing Connection is a cooperative project of
World Vision Canada's Aboriginal Programs,
The Mars Hill Centre

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de laBaie James

ᓂᑕᓂᐢ ᑲᔅ ᐃᒋᐦᐃ ᐊᐃᐢ ᐊᓇᓇᑭᑕᑲᓂᐢ

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay is a Cree entity responsible for the administration of health and social services for all residents under its jurisdiction. This jurisdiction comprises nine Cree communities and their surrounding territories.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that there are numerous positions for the purpose of the recall list available within your community on a continuing basis. All interested applicants are reminded that these positions are accessible at the following locations:

- local band council
- local hospitals/clinics
- job banks

For further details
please do not hesitate to contact:
Human Resources Management
Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay
Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0
Tel: (819) 855-2844 ext. 5340
Fax: (819) 855-2680
E-mail: hrmgmt@cancom.net

JOBS

A Pearl to be Discovered

ᑲ ᒋᐢᐁᐃᓯᑭᐢᑭᐸᓄᐢ ᑲᓇᐢ ᐊ ᓴᒋᓯᑭᐸᓄᐢ

Located in downtown Montreal, Hotel du Fort offers the comfort of home in 127 tastefully appointed guest rooms and suites all featuring kitchenette convenience. For information on discounted rates and reservations please call 1-800-565-6333.

HÔTEL DU FORT

ᒪᓂᑦ ᐊ ᐃᒋᓄᐢ ᑕᐅᑎᐢᐁᐃᑦ ᒫᒃᓴᓂᐢ, ᒪᐢᑲᓄᐢ ᐊ ᐃᔅᒋᐢᔨᔪᐢᐃᐊᐢ ᑭᐢ ᐃᑕᐸᓯᒋᓄᐢ ᑐ ᓴᐢ ᓂᐢᑕᐅᑭᒋᐢ. 127 ᐃᒋᓄᐢ ᒪᒧ ᓂᐢᑕᐅᑭᒋᐢᐁᐢ ᑭᔅ ᒋᔨᐊ ᓄᓄᐢ ᑲ ᐊᐱᓴᔨᐢᐁᐢ ᑭᒋᐢᐁᐢ ᐊᓄᑐ ᐃ ᓇᓂᑐᑭᐢᑲᐢᑎᓇᑲᐢ ᑲᓇᐢ ᐅᐢᐁ ᐊᐢᑲᐢᑎᓄᐢᑎᓇᔪᐢ ᑭᔅ ᒪᓂᑦ ᐊᒋᓴᑦᑭᐢᐁᐢ ᓂᐢᑕᐅᑭᒋᐢ, ᒪᐅᑕ ᐃᔅᒋᐢᑕᐢᑕᐢ 1 800 565 6333.

1390, rue du Fort • Montreal • Quebec • H3H 2R7

CLASSIFIEDS

101 - Birthdays

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our beautiful daughter, Abigail Whitney Chelsea Bosum Mianscum. She will be celebrating her 6th birthday on January 22. She is a very special person to us, she means everything including her sister. We just want her to know that we will do our best to be there for her as she grows up and we will try our best to make this a special birthday. We love you very much. Hope you enjoy your day. Love, Mom, Dad and your one and only sister. XOXOXOXOXOX

I would like to wish my brother Oliver Bobbish a happy birthday on Jan.6. And to my uncle Samuel Bobbish on Jan 6 also. Happy birthday to both of you. I love you and take care of yourselves. From your sister/neice, Janet.

Happy Birthday Greetings to a special Lady in Wemindji, "Karen Atsynia" who turns a year older on Feb 7th. We love you and miss you! With love from your family in Moose Factory – Wabush & the Bunnies

Happy 7th Birthday to my daughter Francine Matthew on Jan.13. Today is very special to me because it is the day you came to this world and you have taught me a lot – to love, to respect and to give. You are a very obedient, loving, giving child. I hope you keep these values for the rest of your life. I love you with all my heart. I know you are excited about your birthday, I will try my best to make it special for you. Love, your mommy.

Happy 17th Birthday to my bro, Victor Longchap on Jan 5, 2001 and many more to come. From sis, Vanessa L. & Victoria L.

Happy 12th Birthday to my sis Victoria Longchap on Jan. 12, 2001 and many more to come. God bless you. From, Sis Vanessa L. & Victor L.

Happy 11th Birthday to my sis, Vanessa Longchap on Jan 5, 2001 and many more to come. God bless you. From: sis Victoria L & Victor L.

Happy Birthday to Lucy Salt. Her birthday is on 02-02-2001. Who's in Chisasibi. If You drink, don't drive. You don't need to drink to have fun, happiness comes from within. With love & prayers, Mom, Ella (Sherbrooke)

Happy Birthday to my Mom, Ella Salt. Her birthday is on 02,20, 2001. Who's in Sherbrooke? Happy Birthday, Mom. From your son, Paul Andre Salt (Sherbrooke)

I want to send birthday wishes to my mom, Daisy Ottereyes. Her birthday is on Feb 29, 2001 (Who's in Sherbrooke) I miss you & I love you. From you daughter, Josephine (Wask.)

Happy birthday to Daisy Ottereyes on Feb.29 2001. Remember don't eat too much of your birthday cake, you're on a diet. You're pretty good on your exercises. Have fun, Don't give up. From your friends. (Sherbrooke)

A BIG birthday wish to my " LITTLE ANGEL " DESIREE JORDAIN CLAIRE MOSES, who is celebrating her 1st birthday on February 5th, 2001. Hope you enjoy your special day! With all my love, Mommy XOXOXO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO DESIREE JORDAIN CLAIRE MOSES WHO IS CELEBRATING HER 1ST BIRTHDAY · FEBRUARY 5,2001. LOVE, YOUR FRIEND SHAY CHUM

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO THE FOLLOWING: Desiree Moses (Feb.5) Carlene Small(Feb.5) Jennifer Small (Feb.7) and Lucas Moses (Feb.9) Hope your days are filled with Joy and Happiness. Love Family & Friends

Happy birthday to my UNCLE/GODFATHER Lucas David James Moses (Moose Factory) who is celebrating his 13th Birthday on February 9th, 2001. Love, Desiree Jordain Claire

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my Grand-parents Minnie & Edward Gilpin Sr,my uncle Wayne, my aunt Audrey, my brothers, and to cousins all from Eastmain . Have a very Happy Birthday everybody Love always Florianne xoxoxoxox

CLASSIFIEDS

103- Anniversaries

Happy first anniversary to my sister Louisa Bobbish Blackned on Dec 31st. May all your plans and dreams come true, may you have a lifetime of joy and happiness. take care of my sweet nieces, Jocelyne , Marysh, Selena, Ashlynne and take care of Jordan-Lee. I love you all! Janet

To our grandparents, Dorothy and Harry Happyjack and Annette Sinclair Neeposh. Happy 21st Anniversary to Dorothy and Harry, on December 22, 2000. And to Annette and Sinclair Neeposh, on December 23, 2000, Happy 22nd Anniversary!! We want to wish you a lifetime of happiness, and we love you all from the bottom of our little hearts. Love always, your granddaughters: Serena & Selena Gull XOXO1/2

To our wonderful and greatest parents above all, Dorothy and Harry Happyjack. Happy 21st Anniversary on Dec. 22nd, Mom and Dad!! We love you both so dearly. And Thank you so much and from the bottom of our hearts for all that you both have done for us. Happy 21st Anniversary and we wish you a lifetime of happiness. Love always: Willie J. and Bob Sam H-jack and Melanie Gull XOXO

Happy 19th Anniversary to my parents, Peter & Dorothy Longchap on Jan 12, 2001, with love from: Victor, Victoria, Vanessa.

300 Personals

I would like to say hello to my buddy in Timmins his name is Christopher Herodier jr. from Florianne Gilpin

To my two wonderful brothers, Willie J. and Bobby Happyjack. I want you both to know I love you both so dearly. Having two brothers who are the most wonderful persons is the most wonderful thing in my life. I love you both so much. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2001. Love always, your sister: Melanie Gull. XOXO1/2 Waswanipi.

To a very special person and a very close friend in my life, my fiancé, Sinclair Neeposh Jr. I want to let you know how special and how dearly loved you are each day. You're in my heart in a very special place where no-one can ever take your place. You're the sweetest part of my life. I will be your best friend forever, the one who will stand by you through good and bad times. I love you and Thank you for everything that you have done. Have a wonderful New Year 2001. Love always and forever more: your fiancée, Melanie Gull XOXO

Hello, to my daughter, Bettina Gwendolyne Salt. I haven't heard from you since last year. (Call me) phone: 877-909-1804, from mom, Ella.

Perfect for the secure part of your RRSP

CANADA PREMIUM BOND			CANADA SAVINGS BOND
5.25%	5.50%	5.75%	4.40%
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1
Series 18 – Annual compound rate of 5.49% for C-bond if held for 3 years			Series 69

Series 18 & 69 available only until February 1, 2001

NEW CANADA SAVINGS BONDS
YOU'RE ON SOLID GROUND.

Canada

To buy direct, call 1·888·773·9999

the best way to travel throughout James Bay

- *New daily flights to Whapmagoostui and LaGrande*
- *Professional Service*
- *Modern Aircrafts*
- *Competitive Rates*

FLY AND GET FREE GIFTS!

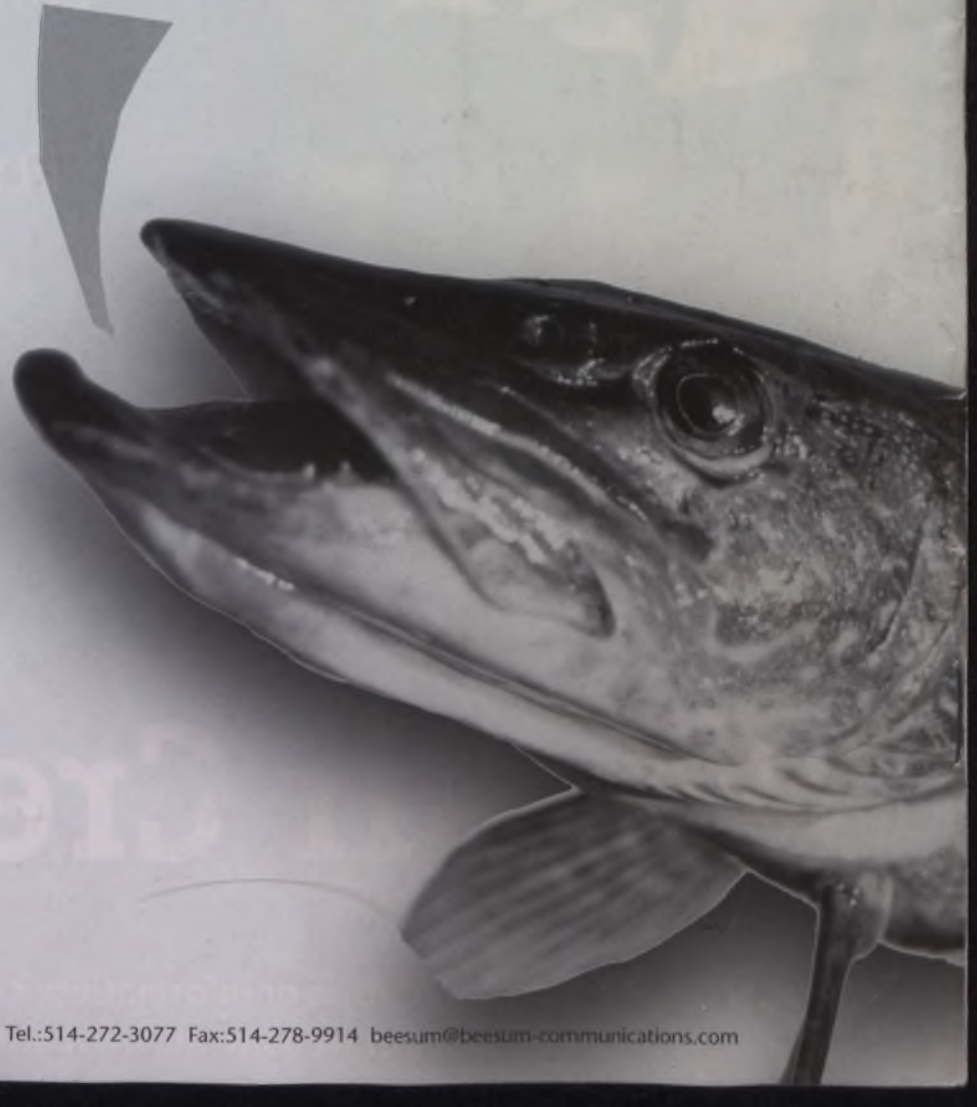
Air Creebec

For reservations, cargo, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca

"Swimming in circles?... Beesum can help."

Beesum?... nope, never heard of 'em.

Film
Print
Multimedia
Concepts
Design
Photography
Translation
Editing
Writing
Marketing



Beesum
communications

5505 St-Laurent, suite 3018, Montreal, QC, H2T 1S6 Tel.:514-272-3077 Fax:514-278-9914 beesum@beesum-communications.com